

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



28 SEP 2004



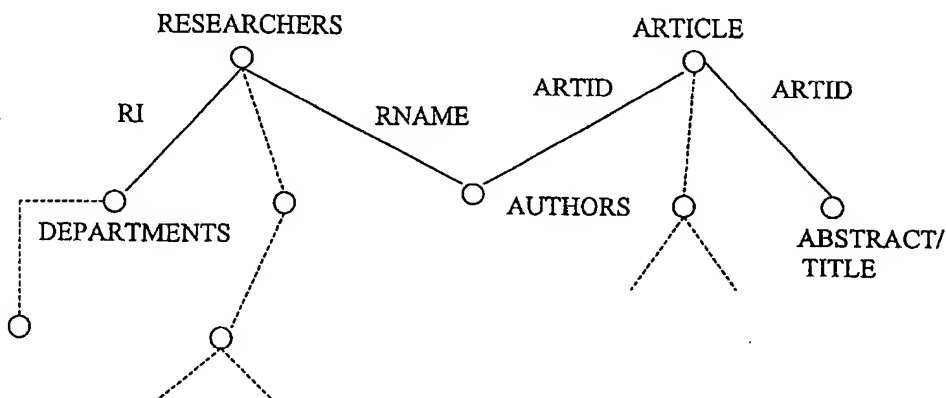
(43) International Publication Date
9 October 2003 (09.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/083713 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/30**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/EP03/03280**
- (22) International Filing Date: **28 March 2003 (28.03.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:
02007416.7 28 March 2002 (28.03.2002) **HP**
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **LION BIOSCIENCE AG** [DE/DE]; Waldhofer Str. 98, 69123 Heidelberg (DE).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ETZOLD, Thure** [DE/GB]; 37 Mawson Road, Cambridge CB1 2DZ (GB). **KLEIN, Carole** [US/GB]; Mitchell House, 185 High Street, Cotteham, Cambridge CB4 8RX (GB). **LUO, Jie** [GB/GB]; 25 Peme Road, Cambridge CB1 3RX (GB). **SEERS, John** [GB/GB]; 75 St. Philips Road, Norwich NR2 3BW (GB).
- (74) Agents: **SCHOHE, Stefan et al.**; Boehmert & Boehmert, Hollerallee 32, 28209 Bremen (DE).
- (81) Designated States (national): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**
- (84) Designated States (regional): **ARIPO** patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), **Eurasian** patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), **European** patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), **OAPI** patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR QUERYING RELATIONAL DATABASES**



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of evaluating a query involving one or more relational databases, each comprising a relational database management system (RDBMS), said query relating to at least two tables of said relational database, said method comprising determining a set of tables, including the tables referred to in the query, wherein each of the tables in said set is linked to at least one other table, such that, in a graphical representation of the database wherein the tables are represented as nodes and links between the tables are represented as lines between the nodes, they form a connected graph connecting nodes corresponding to the tables referred to in the query, performing a query on said set equivalent to the initial query, wherein said step of performing said query on said set comprises performing consecutive partial queries, wherein a result of a previous query is used as input for a later query, combining the results of said partial queries to obtain a result to the initial query. The invention further provides a related data processing system and program.

WO 03/083713 A1